



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON**  
**Gullah/ Geechee Nation Appreciation Week Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County, South Carolina is the second oldest county in South Carolina, and at its founding, Africans were brought into what became established as the Town of Bluffton and came to be known as "Gullah/Geechee"; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous historic churches within our town and one of the very cabins that enslaved Africans built such as the Garvin House which was built by Cyrus Garvin in 1870 still stands in Bluffton; and

**WHEREAS**, Queen Quet, Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation was instrumental in the dissemination of the history of Garvin House and the cabins at the Heyward House as it relates to the Gullah/Geechees that built and lived in them and also cofounded the "Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music and Movement Festival"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music and Movement Festival moves to various parts of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and the African Diaspora each year to educate the world about and to celebrate the continuation of the Gullah/Geechee traditions such as those that still live exist in Bluffton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music and Movement Festival will be "A Celebration of Self-Determination" this year where a series of activities will take place throughout Beaufort County and in the Town of Bluffton to honor the history and legacy of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and to celebrate this theme along with the festival participants;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, along with Town Council, do hereby proclaim July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 7<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 as Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Dated this 12th day of July, 2016.

  
Lisa Sulka, Mayor